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**STATEMENT BY
AMBASSADOR STEFANO BALDI, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ITALY
TO THE OSCE, AT THE 1394th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

14 October 2022

**On the report by the OSCE Special Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office and
Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings**

Mr. Chairperson,

Italy aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union and wishes to add some brief observations in its national capacity.

I should like first to thank the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings for his comprehensive report on the many activities conducted by his Office, particularly in relation to the consequences of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. Over the past months, more than 150,000 Ukrainian refugees have found shelter in Italy, and we will continue to provide them with generous support.

In particular, I should like to thank the Office of the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for the rapid sharing of practical recommendations for strengthening activities to prevent and combat trafficking in human beings in the context of the Ukrainian crisis, and for the BeSafe information and awareness-raising campaign aimed at Ukrainian refugees who have found shelter in Europe. It is an innovative communication tool and a concrete example of the OSCE's ability to react, even in a serious crisis scenario, to the pressing security challenges facing the participating States.

Mr. Chairperson,

Through extrabudgetary projects and staff seconded to the Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator, Italy continues to provide unwavering support to OSCE activities to strengthen the national capacities of participating States in countering trafficking in human beings, through a victim-centred approach and with respect for human rights.

In following up on the simulation exercises developed in previous years in partnership with the Italian Carabinieri's Centre of Excellence for Stability Police Units in Vicenza, we continue to support the Office's activities to promote the OSCE methodology in the various countries that are interested and could benefit from it. The aim is to "bring Vicenza to the world". Of course, we also look forward to new

opportunities for co-operation between the Office of the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and the relevant Italian institutions.

Lastly, I should like to mention that, at the national level, the New Action Plan 2022–2025 against trafficking and serious exploitation is being finalized.

Thank you.